

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically generating a multi-level video summary, comprising:

automatically dividing a video file into full motion video multimedia stream segments without user input using segmenting criteria;

automatically generating at least two summary levels without user input, wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each of the summary levels selected using selection criteria; and

automatically generating navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels without user input, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

automatically determining the length of each summary level.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

automatically grouping video segments in a summary level into a video composite, the video composite including at least two video segments in the summary level.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a user interface whereby a user can view the multi-level video summary, the user interface allowing the user to navigate between summary levels using the navigational links.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

automatically determining the number of summary levels to generate.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

automatically determining which navigational links to generate.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
providing at least one algorithm to be used in generating a multi-level video summary.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:
the selection criteria includes criteria selected from the group consisting of goodness, smoothness of camera operation, amount of camera motion, location in the video, and lighting level.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
providing the ability for an author to refine the automatically-generated multi-level video summaries.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
including the first and last video segments from the video file in the summary levels.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
ensuring that the selection of video segments includes video segments distributed throughout the video file.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:
each navigational link includes a source anchor in one summary level, a destination anchor in another summary level, and at least one return behavior.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein:
each navigational link further includes a label.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:
automatically grouping some of the video segments in a summary level into a video composite that will be a source anchor for a link to another summary level.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the video segments in each summary level are in chronological order as the video segments appear in the video file.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

each summary level includes a different number of video segments.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein:

the return behavior includes a return position selected from the group consisting of the beginning of a video segment, the point in a video segment at which a navigational link is followed, and the end of a video segment.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically generating a multi-level video summary, comprising:

means for automatically dividing a video file into full motion video segments without user input using segmenting criteria;

means for automatically generating at least two summary levels, wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each of the summary levels selected using selection criteria; and

means for automatically generating navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.

20. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon that when executed cause a system to:

automatically divide a video file into full motion video segments without user input using segmenting criteria;

automatically generate at least two summary levels without user input, wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each of the summary levels selected using selection criteria; and

automatically generate navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels without user input, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.